

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00251 121532Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----129161 121533Z /43
R 121013Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 695

S E C R E T JIDDA 0251

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FOR SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SA
SUBJECT: CODEL ZABLICKI VIEWS ON SALE OF F-15'S

1. ZABLICKI CODEL GROUP COMPLETED SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA TODAY. SALE OF F-15'S WAS PRINCIPAL TOPIC AND REACTION OF CODEL GROUP WAS MOST FAVORABLE, ESPECIALLY AFTERN EXPLANATION OF SAUDI OIL POLICY WAS GIVEN. SEVERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO HAD HERETOFORE BEEN WAVERING OR OPPOSED MADE COMMITMENTS TO SUPPORT SALE.

2. BASED ON OBSERVATIONS AND CONVERSATIONS, WE FEEL THE FOLLOWING WILL DEFINETELY VOTE AGAINST ANY RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL: ZABLICKI, BROOMFIELD, FASCELL, RYAN, MEYNER, FINDLEY AND WINN. BELIEVE INCLINED TO VOTE AGAINST RESOLUTION BUT NO FIRM EXPRESSION FROM PETTIS, CLOWSSON, BURKE AND PEASE. BINGHAM WOULD LIKE TO KEEP RESOLUTION IN COMMITTEE BUT WOULD PROBABLY VOTE FOR IT ON RECORDED VOTE. CAVANAUGH STILL SKEPTICAL BUT WE WOULD NOT GIVE UP HOPE ON HIM. GILMAN SEEMED FAVORABLE IMPRESSED BUT NON-COMMITAL AND IN VIEW OF HIS BACKGROUND WOULD NOT COUNT ON ANY HELP FROM HIM, ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE HE WOULD NOT BE AN OUT-SPOLEN OPPONENT OF SALE.

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3. ZABLICKI IS WILLING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY OF ATTEMPTING TO KEEP RESOLUTION IN HIS SUBCOMMITTEE IF NECESSARY BUT WOULD PREFER HAVING ENTIRE COMMITTEE VOTE WHICH WOULD ALSO PRECLUDE A MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY ENTIRE HOUSE. SUGGEST CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON CONTACT CODEL MEMBERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UPON THEIR

RETURN TO WASHINGTON AND IF POSSIBLE GET FIRM COMMITMENTS.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED OF ASSESSMENT OF CODEL REACTION AFTER THEIR RETURN. ESPECIALLY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF ANY CHANGE THEIR MINDS BECAUSE OF VISIT TO ISRAEL AFTER DEPARTING SAUDI ARABIA.
WEST

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CODELS, RESOLUTIONS, AIRCRAFT SALES, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA00251
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850071-2613
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780169/aaaacgkp.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1739fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3783191
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL ZABLICKI VIEWS ON SALE OF F-15'S
TAGS: MASS, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1739fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014